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The minister's rate for 1788. Richmond, Massachusetts.

by

Frank De Wette Andrews.

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THE MINISTER'S RATE FOR 1788

Richmond, Massachusetts

Town votes for a new church, 1794
Rev. David Perry, minister
1784-1816

COMPILED BY

FRANK D. ANDREWS

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VINELAND, N. J.

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PREFACE.

Pleasantly situated in a charming valley among the Berkshire hills of Western Massachusetts is the town of Richmond, named from the Duke of Richmond, it is supposed, when incorporated, June 20, 1763. as the town of Richmont, afterwards changed to Richmond. The settlers soon built a meeting-house and raised money to pay a minister. The name of the first preacher is unknown, so it is stated. His successor was Rev. Job Swift who became their pastor in 1767. He was followed by Rev. David Perry in 1784. A sketch of Mr. Perry will be found on another page, also the names of the tax-payers and the amount of the tax necessary to pay the pastor's salary.

As every property holder was taxed we have the names of the heads of families living in Richmond in the year 1788.

The records on the following pages are printed from the original documents in the compilers possession. It is hoped they may be of some interest to local historians and genealogists.

Acknowledgment is herewith made for the sketch of Rev. David Perry to the "Biographies and Annals of Yale College." "History of Harwinton. Conn.," and "History of Western Massachusetts."

F. D. A.

Vineland, New Jersey.
December 8, 1922.

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TOWN VOTES FOR A MEETING HOUSE.

In the year 1794 and 1795 the Congregationalist of Richmond, Mass., erected a Meeting House. The following votes, printed from the original manuscript, may be of some interest to the present or former residents of the place.

January 27, 1794: The meeting convened according to agreement, the committee reported. Chose Zachariah Peirson, Clerk Pro tem.

Moved that the Sense of the Town be taken wether they like the report of the Committe and the price of the Land.

Voted in the afermitive yeas 56, Nays 31.

Moved to se if the Town will Grant Seven Hundred pounds for the purpose of building a meeting House on Zachariah Peirson Land near Majour Woods.

Voted in the Afermative, Yeas 43, Nays 28.

Moved to se if the Town will Chouse a committe to Contract with some Gentleman for building a meeting House.

Voted in the afermative.

Voted and Chose Capt. Nathan Peirson, Henry Sherril and Capt. Ebenezer Williams a committe to Contract with Sum Gentleman for building A meeting House.

Voted to ajourn this Meeting four weeks from the 27 of January.

February 24, 1794, the Meeting Convened acording to agreement, the Committe reported.

Moved to se if the Town will impour the Committe to pay Mr. Jonson One hundred and fifty pounds for Compleeting the underpining of a meeting house acording fo the Committe Dementions.

Voted in the afirmative. yeas 29. Nays 26.

Voted to ajorn this Meeting til Next Monday at one of the O clock in the after noon.

March 3 1794, the Meeting Convened acording to ajornment.

Moved to se if the Meeting Consider the Moderator to be legally Chosen.

Voted in the afarmative.

Moved to try the minds of the Town to se if they will Build a Meeting House on Zachariah Peirson Land near Majer Wood.

Voted in the afermitive, yeas 40, Nays 38.

Moved to se if the Town will Chuse a committe.

Moved that the Sense of the Town be taken wether they will agree to meet at a futer meeting and vote for Six places, viz, Zachariah P. Land, Mr. Barns Land, Mr. Pixleys Land, Esq. Bishops L Mr. Edwards Land and the Old Meeting House, and that they will Build the Hous were the gatest Magorety of Votes Shall be.

This Meeting is ajornd til Next thursday at One Of the Clock after noon.

Met acording to adjournment.

Moved that the Town build a M. House on the Hill where the old house stands.

Voted in the negative, yeas 32. Nays 71.

Voted & Chose Capt. Nathan Pierson, Henry Sherril & John Brown a Committe to make and Report a plan of the Size, form and manner of Work for a house the Situation of the same and to see with whom they can make the most advantageous contract to accomplish this work, at this meeting, at the adjournment.

Voted & chose D. Rosseter, J. Gates, J. Raymond, J. Ford & W. Barnes a Committe to direct the Situation of the Meeting house.

Voted to reconsider a vote granting £700 for it.

Voted Granted £700 to be laid out in building a Meeting house.

Voted and chose Capt. Nathan Peirson, Joseph Ray-

mond & Samnel Gates a committee who are hereby authorised to contract with any person with whom they can most advantagiously agree to build a Meeting house for this Town agreeable to a report of a committee made this day, to inspect and superintend the erection of the house and to borrow in behalf of the Town any sum or sums of Money that may be necessary to be advanced in the execution of the business before the money can be collected by taxes & procure of Zachariah Pierson a Deed of so much land & in such form as will accommodate the Town for a Meeting house.

ERRATUM:—

For Rev. Job Smith, page 6, read REV. JOB SWIFT.

REV. DAVID PERRY.

Rev. David Perry, who was installed minister of the church at Richmond, Mass. August 25, 1784, was born in what is now Huntington in Stratford, Conn. July 19, 1746. He was the son of a farmer, Joshua Perry. His mother, Mary Leavenworth, was the daughter of Dr. Thomas Leavenworth. David Perry entered Yale College and graduated from that institution in 1772.

He studied theology with his uncle, Rev. Mark Leavenworth of Waterbury, and it is believed he was also a pupil of Rev. Joseph Bellemy, the eminent theologian.

He was licensed to preach by the New Haven County Association, May 25, 1772. The church at Harwinton Conn. having dismissed its minister, the Rev. Andrew Bartholomew, the society voted September 7, 1773, "a committee shall apply to Rev. David Perry to preach with them the winter coming." On the 21, the action was renewed and on October 11, the society voted "to settle Mr. Perry in the work of the ministry."

Mr. Perry accepted the call and was ordained February 15, 1774. Mr. Bartholomew, the former pastor was in favor of the half-way covenant which he strenuously defended. It was understood Mr. Perry would baptize the children of the covenant-owners, but the time came when he could not conscientiously apply the baptismal ordinance to the infant offspring of non-communicants, and he told them so, this led to his dismission—with the advice of other churches December 23, 1783.

The church in Richmond, Mass., to which Mr. Perry was called after the close of his labors in Harwinton was formed in 1765, Rev. Job Smith, a graduate of Yale College, was the first pastor. Mr. Perry was installed August 25, 1784. In this new position he was not only well pleased but he pleased the people. The number of church members was increased from thirty-one at his installation by the addition of two hundred and twenty-nine during his ministry.

His long service was brought to a close through ill health, which so impaired his ability to minister to his people that he was dismissed January 1, 1816.

Mr. Perry died the following year, June 7, 1817. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Alvan Hyde of Lee, Mass. The sermon was subsequently printed

Mr. Perry married, August 20, 1776, Jerusha Lord of Middletown, Conn. daughter of Ichabod Lord of Colchester. They had ten children, seven sons and three daughters. Three of their sons graduated at Williams College. Mrs. Perry died at the home of her son at Lee, July 13, 1832.

It has been said: "the religious character of Mr. Perry was such as to furnish a bright example to every gospel minister. He was eminent for his expressions and daily exhibitions of piety and eminently devoted and faithful as a minister of Christ."

THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE MINISTER'S RATE: £100..17..1 Novr 10th 1788.

John Bacon,
Stephen Benton, Assesr.
Comfort Wood,

Names.	£	s	d
Austin, Levi		15	5
Andrus, Ozias		17	5
Ames, Elias		3	1
Akins, Seth		3	11
Andrus, Asa		2	1
Betts, Aaron		6	7
Bliss, Jacob		17	1
Bacon, John	1	1	0
Bell, Soloman	1	2	1
Brown, Samuel		4	2
Bliss, Charles		2	5
Betts, Zebulon		2	6
Brittan, Benjamin		9	8
Do. as Guardeen		6	0
Blodget, Abner		2	1
Bryan, Joseph		6	0
Booth, Samuel		11	2
Bell, Jason		5	9
Bishop, Leonard		2	9
Branch, Levi		8	5
Bartlett, John		5	8
Betts, Preserved		6	4
Bishop, Moses		2	6
Branch, Cyprian		8	3
Bishop, Nathaniel		19	6

Names.	£	s	d
Branch, Vine		17	11
Brown, David		3	0
Barrit, John		1	1
Barnes, William		15	2
Benton, Stephen		15	5
Betts, Comstock		14	2
Betts, Enoch		2	1
Barnes, Jeremiah		12	0
Bartlett, William		3	9
Betts, Joel		6	0
Bullard, Samuel		2	1
Brainard, Daniel		1	2
Crocker, Ezekiel	2	5	4
Crocker, Ezekil Jr.		2	1
Crittenton, Levi		6	2
Coon, Timothy as Guard.			3
Cone, Darius		2	1
Carpenter, Richard		12	10
Cone, Ashbell	1	1	0
Crocker, Oliver			5
Cogswell, Saml Jur.		16	10
Crocker, John		8	10
Cook, Philip	2	6	11
Collins, Dan		5	3
Cogswell, Asahel		10	4
Carpenter, Simion		10	9
Cogswell, Nathan	1	4	11
Chidsey, Jo. & Agustus	1	2	1
Cole, Timothy		2	5
Collins. Manasich	1	3	9
Clark, Joseph		13	8
Colt, Jabez	1	1	4
Castle, Ebenezer	1	0	9
Carr, John		4	3

Names.	£	s	d
Cook, Walter		5	8
Cogswell, Levi		6	9
Cogswell, Joseph		11	2
Down, Samuel		2	1
Dewey, Benedict			7
Day, Noah		2	2
Dewey, Solomon		16	1
Dudley, Jno Jur.		3	4
Dudley, Wm		3	3
Dorchester, Steph. & Alex.		14	5
Dupee, Charles		3	3
Dudley. Jno		19	6
Dean, Josiah		12	0
Edwards, William		16	9
Edwards, Gamaliel		2	1
Edwards, Daniel		5	10
Flower, George		6	4
Frazur, William		5	0
Fuller, Bithiah Wid.		5	0
Flower, Theoron		5	11
Fuller, Levi		12	1
Fish, Charles		2	5
Ford, Absalom		5	11
Ford, James Jur		5	0
Ford, James	1	0	3
Guttery, Abel		1	1
Gates, James		10	0
Garton, Robert		10	7
Gates, James O.		6	4
Griswold. Jer h		4	2
Gould, John		2	1
Gates, Jonah		6	1
Griffin, Russel	1	0	4
Graves, Rufus		6	10

Names.	£	s	d
Gates, Samuel		8	5
Garton, John		14	8
Garton, Naomi		11	1
Garton, Alex.		16	5
Goodwin, James		7	10
Hazzard, Nath l		3	10
Hill, John		2	3
Hall, Gad		4	8
Hachley, Peter		1	3
Hill, Titus		17	2
Hand, Daniel		6	2
Harrison, Abel		16	8
Harrison, Abel Jur		4	9
Hall, Daniel		9	0
Hatch, Daniel		3	0
Hatch, Stephen		7	0
Hart, Eben r		8	6
Hedges, Lewes		9	5
Hall, Jno		13	1
Holly, Jonathan		8	6
Hall, Titus Jur		12	4
Hand, Abram		2	2
Hough, Simon		2	9
Hough, Samuel		2	1
Hillock, Robert		6	7
Hackley, Sam l		10	4
Hoppen, Henry		2	5
Holly, David		9	0
Hurlbert, Matthias		3	5
Ingham, Joseph		3	1
Johnson, Lemuel		9	2
Jessup, Nathaniel		5	5
Kellogg, Israel		10	9
Kingsley, Jeremiah		9	4

Names.	£	s	d
Lusk, William		16	9
Lusk, John		15	1
Leadbetter, Swift Wm		2	2
Leadbetter, Thomas		2	1
Merriman, Benj a		9	5
Merriman, Amos		14	5
Merriman, Abram		7	9
Miller, Jeremiah		8	4
Minor, Rufus			3
Miller, Eleazer		4	9
Melody, Thomas		3	1
Nichols, John Jur		5	10
Newell, Eben r		2	11
Osborn, Wm		7	1
Peirson, Nathan	4	18	1
Peirson, Benj n	1	8	5
Peirson, Zach h		15	7
Peirson, Jer h		8	6
Pixley, Moses		10	3
Patterson, Amos		12	9
Patterson, Joseph		13	8
Plumb, Eben r		10	2
Parmele, Amos		9	1
Parmele, Ab m		3	2
Perry, Rev. David		7	3
Peirce, Pardon		2	1
Plummer, Frances		4	4
Rosseter, Nathan	1	5	9
Rosseter, David	1	19	5
Raymond, Joseph		11	4
Rosseter, Nathan Jur		5	5
Raymond, Paul		8	8
Redington, Eliph t		14	9
Rowley, Tho s		1	0

Names.	£	s	d
Rosseter, Noah		5	0
Redfield, Beriah		10	2
Root, Reuben			14
Redington, Daniel		7	6
Redington, Nath l		5	2
Rowley, Aaron	1	1	6
Rutley, Eben r		2	1
Scott, Tho s		17	1
Scott, Tho s Jur		5	3
Scott, Stephen		3	0
Scott, Nathan		6	11
Stevens, Parker		7	6
Smith, Gager		2	3
Sherrill, Sam l		10	7
Stevens, David	1	1	1
Smith, Azel		2	1
Spencer, Eliakim		11	4
Slosson, Daniel		13	1
Smith, Polhiayues		12	10
Smith, Ezra	1	5	5
Sherrill, Henry		17	0
Stevens, Elisha		9	2
Skeel, Jonathan		6	11
Spencer, Jude		2	9
Tilden, Isaac			9
Tilden, Calvin		10	9
Tarbell, Jonathan		17	9
Tubbs, Dan		2	3
Tilden, Isaiah		12	0
Tracy, Simeon		19	10
Do. as Guardian		1	3
Wood, Ichabod		9	7
Williams, John		18	10
Wood, Comfort		15	5

Names.	£	s	d
Williams, Eben r		15	8
West, Abner		9	7
Williams & Miller Adm rs			4
Webber, Joseph		5	2
Welch, Nathan		3	3
West, Abner Jur		4	10
Welch, Eben r	1	2	11
Webber, Chaimdler?		1	1
Winston, Abram		2	5
West, William		6	2
Walters, Benj a		12	0
Williams, David		12	5
Adams, Thomas		2	5

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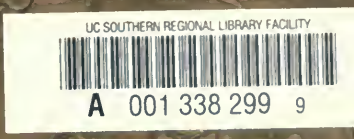

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